

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00568 190149Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 ICA-11 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 /091 W

-----025085 191341Z /47

R 180931Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9278
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE VIENTIANE 0568

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ECON LA TH EFIN
SUBJECT: LPDR TAKES OVER "555" COMPANY

1. THE LAO GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN OVER THE "555" COMPANY WHICH INCLUDES AS ASSETS THE "555" CIGARETTE COMPANY, A ONE THIRD COMPLETED CEMENT FACTORY, AND A MACHINE FACTORY, ALL IN VIENTIANE PROVINCE.
2. THE MANAGER, WHOSE HOUSE IN VIENTIANE HAS ALSO BEEN OCCUPIED, APPARENTLY HAS GONE TO THAILAND. HE REPORTEDLY DID NOT RECEIVE ANY COMPENSATION OR EVEN DOCUMENTATION FROM THE GOVERNMENT FORMALIZING THE CONFISCATION.
3. AT THIS POINT THE STATUS OF AN OUTSTANDING LOAN OF 8 MILLION DOLLARS, REPORTEDLY OWED TO A CONSORTIUM OF THAI BANKS, IS UNCLEAR.

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4. THE COMPANY'S KIP ACCOUNT IN THE NATIONAL BANK HAD BEEN CONTROLLED BY THE GOVERNMENT FOR A LONG TIME, WITH THE GOVERNMENT PERMITTING WITHDRAWAL OF FUNDS ONLY FOR PAYMENT OF EXPENSES. STOCKS AT THE CIGARETTE COMPANY HAD VIRTUALLY BEEN EXHAUSTED, THOUGH THE "555" MANAGER MAINTAINED A LARGE CREW OF LAO WORKERS WHO RECEIVED FULL SALARIES DESPITE THE FACT THAT THE FACTORY WAS OPERATING

AT 10 PERCENT CAPACITY.
ROBERTS

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 18 may 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition History: n/a
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: ef578c9a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: LPDR TAKES OVER \"555\" COMPANY
TAGS: ECON, EFIN, LA, TH
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